



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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VISITORS FROM SPACE

Giant Meteors That Crashed to Earth in Remote Siberia

IT was reported from Moscow recently that an enormous meteorite—or "shooting-star" as we call it when seen at night—had fallen in Kamchatka, the bleak peninsula in the east of Siberia, and an expedition has been sent to find it.

This is the third great meteorite to fall in Siberia in our century. Last year one of the biggest ever known fell in a remote mountainous wilderness north of Vladivostok.

On a fine sunny morning last year, peasants living there saw a huge fire-ball hurtling through the air, its red tail leaving a broad smoke-trail behind. It was so bright that trees and other objects cast two shadows—one made by the sun and the other by the meteorite. Before it reached the ground this cosmic missile exploded with a roar that was heard 50 miles away.

The Frightened Animals

The blast brought down snow from peasants' huts miles away, shook the walls, broke windows, dislodged soot from chimneys, and, in a mine in the district, blew out the miners' lamps.

The poor animals belonging to the peasants were terrified: cows lowed pitifully, goats scattered, dogs howled and pressed against human beings for comfort. Where the meteorite had exploded there hung for hours a black column of smoke tinged with a rosy red colour.

At once a geologist of Vladivostok, together with a hunter and a radio operator, set out to find the remains of the meteorite. They had to tramp from village to village asking where it had fallen. They soon found themselves in the trackless primeval taiga, waist deep in snow, and making for a distant volcano on the sides of which the exploded meteorite had descended in a hail of stones. Travelling was very difficult. At night they sheltered under trees, lighting fires to cook the hazel-grouse they had shot during the day.

When at last they reached the

volcano's slopes they found that another party of scientists had got there first. These, unknown to them, had set out by plane from the town of Khabarovsk, and, after landing with great difficulty some distance away, had also had to fight their way through the taiga to the spot.

Both parties, however, soon forgot their hardships in their awe at the strange scene nearby. Over an area 1000 yards long and 500 yards wide, the snow, flattened by the blast, was pitted by more than 100 craters and dotted with uprooted and shattered trees, and pieces of the meteorite itself; these were dis-shaped. Of the craters, the biggest was 90 feet across and 12 feet deep.

This meteorite was found far more quickly than the one which in 1908 fell in the Tunguska area, a wild and almost unknown region of forests in Siberia. It was not until 1927 that a Russian scientist visited the spot and reported that the forest had been burnt and blasted over a wide area. A fantastic theory about this 1908 meteorite was described recently by a Russian writer.

A Ship From Mars

This theory was that the meteorite was really a Martian space-ship in which some inhabitants of the planet Mars were trying to pay us a call. But their ship, laden with uranium for the return journey, exploded, so that the visit became a permanent residence!

The 1947 meteorite, called the Sikhota-Alin meteorite from the mountain range on which it fell, was larger than the 1908 one. The world will await with interest the report of the expedition which has gone to investigate Siberia's 1948 meteorite in Kamchatka.

The White Elephant

A KING'S GIFT TO A KING

THE King's present of six royal swans to the Regent of Iraq (mentioned in last week's CN) is a reminder that it is an ancient practice for kings to make gifts of birds or animals to each other.

An early instance of this was when the King of Spain dispatched to King James I of England the unusual gift of an elephant and five camels. King James was delighted, and promptly ordered accommodation for the animals at the Royal Zoological Garden in St. James's Park.

The thrifty Lord Treasurer took a different view, however, and remarked how little he was in love "with royal presents which cost his master as much to maintain as would a garrison." But everyone was too interested in the new arrivals to take any notice of the Lord Treasurer.

However, there was evidently good cause for the Lord Treasurer's disapproval, for through the extra expenses incurred by the animals the already unhappy state of the Treasury was made considerably worse. Consequently, the Queen's visit to the "Bath" had to be postponed because there was no money to pay her expenses; and she made a great fuss.

The King, impatient at all this argument, ordered an estimate to be made of the annual cost of maintaining the Royal elephant; and the "breefe noate" of the year's charges informs us that the elephant cost £180 to feed, the two Spaniards "that keep him" £52, and the two English keepers £41.

In addition to this princely sum, we are told that "his Spanish keepers affirm that from the month of September until April, he must drink (not water) but wyne—and from April until September, he must have a gallon of wyne the daye." Who had the "wyne" we can only guess!

So This Is SWITZERLAND!



A fur-clad little visitor to a Swiss holiday resort takes a bright view of the Alps, in spite of the snow goggles.

The Golden Fruit From China

IT is good news indeed that oranges are now unrationed; and good news, too, that our Food Ministry has concluded arrangements enabling us to import 100,000 tons of Spain's beautiful sweet oranges.

The orange is by far the most important of Spanish exports, whether the bitter for marmalade, or the sweet fruit for dessert. But the fruit came to Spain from the Far East. Early Portuguese explorers brought Spain her first oranges from China, which seems to have been the first cultivator of the fruit. Such a fact need not surprise us, for China had expert botanists centuries before the dawn of Christianity. A thousand years before Christ their books described over 300 trees and plants.

These were the people who so

long ago brought the orange to what then seemed perfection. How it must have pleased their poetic, beauty-loving observers, not only because of the contrasting splendour of the deep green leaves and the delightful blossom, but because it seems a symbol of complete, unending life. On the same tree there are at one and the same time leaves, blossoms, and fruit in all stages: tiny newly-formed fruit, then growths up to full-sized maturity, green, various shades of pale yellow, ending in the glory of the great golden fruit, all growing together.

The Spanish sweet orange shows us what centuries of highly-skilled European cultivation have done for the development of this magnificent Oriental fruit.

AT THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD

ONE of the most interesting signposts in the whole world is in Uganda, plainly seen as it is approached along the motor road, which follows every turn and contour of the innumerable foothills and is in amazingly good condition, considering how far it penetrates the country north and west of Lake Victoria.

Behind is Fort Portal, nearest town to the Ruwenzori Mountain and famed for the Mountains of the Moon Hotel, with its charming telegraphic address—Romance. Nearby is Nya'asura,

a school in wonderful scenery, where they play football and play it well. Ahead, towering above the salt lake Katwe on its eastern slopes, is Mount Ruwenzori itself, perhaps the most fascinating mountain in Africa.

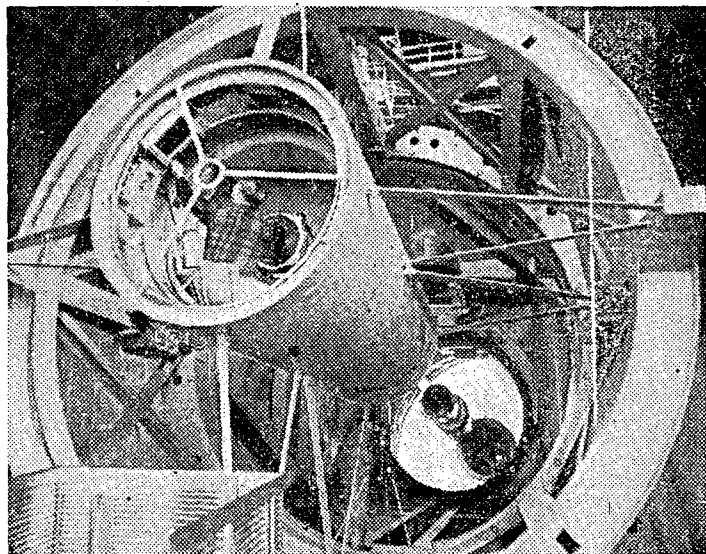
And there is the unique signpost! Slow Down, it commands. Equator. The traveller stops and then reads the two arms. One says Northern Hemisphere and the other Southern Hemisphere, and then he knows that he is standing on latitude zero, with half the world on either side!

THE WORLD'S GREATEST TELESCOPE IS NEARLY READY

ASTRONOMERS all over the world eagerly await reports from Mount Palomar in California, where the 200-inch mirror of the world's biggest telescope has been mounted and the controls and mechanism of the instrument are being finally tested and adjusted.

On a favourable night soon the first observations will be made. The huge dome will revolve, the 500-ton telescope will swing into position, and the eye of man will leap out towards the ultimate frontiers of the universe.

This new reflector is expected to have a range of about a thousand million light-years, double that of the 100-inch telescope on Mount Wilson. Who can guess what it may reveal when it peers into those eerie realms where human imagination has always faltered?



Looking down the Mount Palomar telescope.

200,000,000 MORE TO FEED

READING our Government's recent White Papers on incomes and trade, and knowing that our neighbours, such as France, are facing similar troubles, we are apt to think that difficulties are restricted only to our part of the world. This is by no means true. The economic crisis is world-wide.

Although some countries such as the United States may now be prospering, it is realised by all experts, American and non-American, that no country can really enjoy the good things of life for any length of time if its neighbours are in ruin.

An excellent comment on these matters is in a book prepared by the United Nations Secretariat for the Economic and Social Council now meeting at Lake Success. Its somewhat forbidding title is "Economic Report—Salient Features of the World Economic Situation 1945-1947"; and it would be tedious for anyone who is not a specialist to wade through the mass of statistical and descriptive material telling of the lean years that have arrived. But some at least of the most striking facts ought to be known by everyone, young and old.

Our main trouble, says the Report, is that two years after

the end of the war, the world is producing less than it did ten years ago. It would have been bad enough had the number of the inhabitants of the globe stood still. But, in spite of the losses caused by the war in Europe and Asia, the population of the world is now 200 million more than it was in 1938. This means that, with less food, textiles, and building materials, we have to feed, clothe, and house a population which has increased by more than the number of people of Britain and America combined.

Dependence on Dollars

While the industrial production of the US has gone up enormously, that of many other countries has greatly diminished. This has increased the dependence of many, mostly European, countries on the US and other nations requiring payment in dollars.

But this demand for its goods will do the US no good, unless sooner or later it will take in exchange more European goods. In international trade, to give without taking is about as bad as in everyday life to take without giving.

Another sign of the changing times is the industrialisation of backward countries. There are now very few countries where the whole economic life is centred around the production of just food or minerals for export. Each of these "under-developed" countries (most of them in the vast spaces of South America or Africa or Asia) now wishes to utilise the skill and brains of its people through industrial work.

In many cases this industry is very primitive, something on the lines of the old English pinmaker immortalised by Adam Smith. But just as the English pinmaker marked the beginning of a powerful and complex British engineering industry so the South American or African "pin-maker" of today may be the forerunner of a great industry of the future.

Home Production

At any rate, the very great difficulties which these less advanced countries experienced in obtaining manufactured goods from Britain, American, and other "workshops" of the world during the war encouraged them to build factories to produce such goods as could be obtained from their own raw materials.

These steps, small though they may be at present, are considered by the Report to be of such importance in the long run as to overshadow even the present dominance of the US in world production. This may mean, too, that in the future there may be fewer people in the food-producing countries to tend the fields. The vital problem of feeding mankind may thus become even more acute than it is today.

On this subject the Report gives this warning: "For some years to come at least, a shortage of food in the world is likely to constitute a serious obstacle to economic recovery... unless action can be devised which will facilitate increased production of food as quickly as possible and will ensure a better distribution of food available now, both within and among all countries."

America's Little "Empire"

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has been visiting some of the United States overseas possessions—Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the American naval base in Cuba.

These are a few of the places which make up what may be termed America's "Empire." Puerto Rico is the fourth largest island of the West Indies and it was ceded by Spain to the US in 1898. Its population of 1,870,000 have a considerable measure of self-government. The Virgin Islands lie about 40 miles east of Puerto Rico; some of them belong to Britain and some were purchased by the US from Denmark in 1917. Cuba is an independent republic, but she leases a naval base to the US.

The biggest of all the distant territories of the US is Alaska. America bought this vast, bleak land from Russia in 1867 for one penny an acre. The Panama Canal zone is administered by America, the right being acquired from the Panama Republic in 1903. Away in the Pacific are the Hawaiian Islands which have belonged to the US since 1898 when, in accordance with the wishes of the Hawaiians, they were annexed. Here, in 1941, the Japanese attacked American warships in Pearl Harbour and thus brought the US into the war.

The US possesses some of the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific, which she acquired by treaty with Britain and Germany in 1899, and in the North Pacific are her two tiny islands of Wake and Midway. In the West Pacific she owns Guam Island, which is 30 miles long and four to eight and a half miles wide and has a population of 23,400. Guam, said to have been discovered by Magellan in 1521, was ceded by Spain to the US in 1898 after the Spanish-American war.

MILES OF SARDINES

SOME months ago the CN described the work of a Colonial Office Fishery Research vessel in the Indian Ocean. Now comes news of planes being used to explore still further the natural wealth of the Indian Ocean.

From a research station at Aden, established there recently by Mr C. F. Hickling, Colonial Office Fisheries Adviser, scientists flew out over the deep waters of the Indian Ocean and, among other discoveries, spotted in the Gulf of Aden a shoal of sardines 18 miles long! Some of these were later caught and found to taste better than the sardines with which we are familiar. The research team at Aden also report finding a new kind of fish which tastes like salmon.

A Tribute to Brave Men

EARLY in the war there were rejoicings when three British cruisers defeated the German battleship Graf Spee in the Battle of the River Plate. One of those cruisers was HMS Exeter. Later in the war this grand ship was sunk in eastern waters, and there was a heavy loss of life.

On Monday next, March 1, a window will be dedicated in Exeter Cathedral to the memory of that ship and her lost crew. Survivors will be present at the ceremony.

WORLD NEWS REEL

COLOURED COTTON. Experiments with the growing of coloured cotton are being made in Southern Russia.

New Zealand engineers have drained several acres of Lake Kimihia, near Auckland, under which half-a-million tons of coal are estimated to lie.

Mr C. S. Webb, London Zoo curator-collector, leaves for Nigeria soon on a collecting expedition.

SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE. Fire engines raced to an empty school at Auckland, New Zealand, and found—workmen smoking out a swarm of bees!

Children of Woking, Surrey, have given 101 lbs of chocolate for famine relief in Europe.

The Everall Bridge over the Oder at Szezezin (Stettin), a gift from Britain to Poland, was opened not long ago by the British Ambassador. The bridge has been valued at £500,000.

FRIENDS IN NEEDHAM. People of Needham in Massachusetts are to send one ton of food and clothes to the people of Needham Market, Suffolk.

A Portuguese boy pianist aged 12, Sergius Varella Cid, has visited London to play a Beethoven concerto. He can speak four languages.

Under the terms of the Italian Peace Treaty, the largest share of the Italian Navy, 46 ships, goes to Russia.

HOME NEWS REEL

FULL TIME JOB. Lancashire County Education Committee has decided to appoint full-time road safety wardens.

Appeals have been made for £3000 to repair Harting Church, Sussex. It is called the Cathedral of the Downs, and in its churchyard lies Anthony Trollope the novelist.

Boy apprentices are to build eight houses on a Chislehurst and Sidcup Council estate.

RADAR SCHOOL. The Civil Radar School at Aldermaston, Berkshire, is the first of its kind in Europe. Students there learn to guide civil aircraft to aerodromes in bad weather.

Ministry of Fuel has given permission for the switching on of the beacon light on Gillingham's church tower—once used for guiding shipping on the Medway.

FINISHING SCHOOL. About one in 50 of the recruits to the Services are found to be illiterate, or nearly so. These recruits are sent to a special educational course.

When a cat became imprisoned inside the chimney of a house in Downham, Kent, the chimney had to be pulled down to release it.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

PRESENCE OF MIND. The Scout Gilt Cross has been awarded to 14-year-old Patrol Second Papps, of the 37th Willesden Troop, London, for his prompt action when his sister's clothing caught fire. He smothered the flames with an eiderdown and gave First Aid until the doctor arrived.

On being taken to hospital after his foot had been crushed by a motor-lorry, Wolf-Cub Bernard Trett, of the 14th Norwich Troop, said: "I am a Cub and must not cry." Later his foot was amputated. For his bravery he has been awarded the Scout Meritorious Conduct Certificate.

With the lifting of the travel ban many Guides are inquiring as to the possibility of visits to

LOST ISLAND. It was reported not long ago from Mauritius that Fou Islet has been completely washed away by a cyclone. Four men who were on the islet at the time lost their lives. Another small island, Avocaie, was under six feet of water at the same time, all boats and buildings being carried away. Mauritius suffered no serious damage.

A collection of early British water-colours from 1750 to 1850 is to be sent to Australia to be shown in the Dominion's galleries. The exhibition has been organised by the Empire Art Loan Exhibitions Society.

For the first time on record, the Montmorency Falls, a 265-foot cataract near Quebec, has been frozen over.

BARRIERS DOWN. After being closed for nearly two years, the frontier between France and Spain has been re-opened for passenger traffic, and postal, telegraphic, and telephone communication. Goods will begin to be transported across the frontier on March 1.

Jamaica is to export food yeast to Britain. It is a powder rich in proteins and vitamins and can be added to various dishes and to bread.

A representative selection of Danish art, from the Stone Age to modern times, will be brought to Britain this year to be exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

A workman at Harrogate unearthed a jam jar containing 100 £5 notes. He handed them over to the authorities, and Bank officials have now traced the owners, who buried the notes in the early part of the war.

WINDFALL. Mr William Benjamin Campion of Teignmouth, who died in 1945, left his fortune of £22,796 to the National Gallery.

The Ministry of Education Library has been re-opened at Curzon Street House, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

For running hostels and camps, and for cooking, 1000 students are wanted by the Organising Committee of the London Olympic Games.

The new State-sponsored hearing aid called Medresco, which will be available for all deaf people when the National Health Service Act comes into force, contains two tiny amplifier valves of a new British make, less than half an inch in diameter.

The postmaster of Occold, Suffolk, has opened the brick post office which he himself built in a month.

the International Guide Chalet at Adelboden. So popular is this Swiss rendezvous with Guides of all nations that last year only one-fifth of the British Guides who applied could be accommodated there.

BRAVE GUIDE. Her splendid courage after being seriously injured in a train smash, and having one of her legs amputated, has earned the Guide's Badge of Fortitude for Joyce Rowe. Joyce, now 17, is still a keen member of the Battersea District Rangers.

During their recent "B B Week" members of the Boys Brigade raised £31,150 for Brigade funds. Of this sum Companies retain £66,759, and £14,391 is available for general Brigade purposes.

A Seaman's Heroism

THE George Cross has been awarded to Able Seaman Thomas Raymond Kelly, who lost his life at sea while saving others. His ship, the Empire Plover, went to the assistance of another vessel, the Famagusta, which was in distress in the Bay of Biscay.

A lifeboat was launched from the stricken Famagusta as the Empire Plover approached, but in the mountainous seas the little boat capsized, throwing out its ten occupants. The Empire Plover lowered ropes, ladders, and scrambling nets, to give those in the water a chance to climb aboard if they could reach the Empire Plover's sides.

Able Seaman Kelly plunged into the sea carrying a lifeline and fought his way through the storm-tossed water to the people who were struggling to keep afloat. He first brought to safety a badly-injured officer, and then, though breathless from his struggle, he returned and brought back a second man. He was by now almost completely exhausted, but he had seen a woman struggling in the water and, although he now knew what fighting the Bay of Biscay meant, he left the safety of the scrambling nets for the third time. He reached the woman, but both were overwhelmed by a giant wave and were not seen again.

He died for others in what the official citation describes as an act of supreme gallantry.

A GENEROUS GIFT

THE nation has acquired a wonderful art treasure through the generous gift to the National Trust by Lord Bearsted of Upton House, Edgehill, Warwickshire, and its splendid art collection.

The pictures in this mansion are themselves a treasury of beauty, and among them are examples of almost every European school of painting as well as works of English masters of the 18th and 19th centuries. There is also a fine set of Brussels tapestries, a collection of Sevres porcelain and Chelsea figures, and a set of 18th-century furniture.

It is hoped that Upton House will be opened in July.

What is an Implosion?

Two of our submarines, the *Stoic* and the *Supreme*, are to be used by the Admiralty in highly important deep-sea experiments.

They are to be lowered down into the sea to such a depth as to make it certain that their plates would buckle, and then be drawn up to reveal to experts just what sea-pressure has done to their interior and contents. Previous experience in such matters has taught us something, but there remains much more to learn of such matters.

We know that anything immersed in sea water to a depth of 3000 feet is submitted to a pressure of 1350 lbs to the square inch, and that the pressure increases enormously the deeper we go. The pressure at these great depths acts surprisingly when the water cannot enter a vessel quickly enough to make that pressure equal on both sides at once. If that pressure could be equally applied, instantly, no

harm would result; when it cannot, then steel plates are buckled like crumpled cardboard.

The effect on such things as bottles of fluid not quite full, or on tubes in which there is air left between the stopper and the top of the contents, is quite astonishing. It is like an explosion reversed, so is called *implosion*. An explosion causes a violent bursting outwards; an implosion causes the blowing in of the cork where the bottle or other vessel is not absolutely full, while the glass of a tube, just short of fullness, is shattered into a powder like fine dry snow. Stranger still, when wood is immersed in water to a very great depth the pressure bursts the little cells that give the log buoyancy, so that wood, when re-immersed, sinks like a stone.

There is more to learn; the *Stoic* and the *Supreme* may teach much in their last deep dives.

New Work For Old Tanks

WE frequently hear the expression "beating swords into ploughshares," but turning tanks into coal-getters is something quite new.

At an open-cast coal site near Lochgelly, in Fife, work was being held up because of a shortage of heavy tractors required to pull the great mechanical excavators which strip off the top soil and leave the coal exposed.

Then someone had the idea of using tanks for the purpose, and two 34-ton Sherman tanks of the type used in the Western Desert were bought. Guns, turrets, armour-plating, and one of the pair of 170 hp engines were removed, reducing the weight by almost half. The conversion has proved to be a great success.

ROADSIDE FOOD

THE campaign for more and more home-grown food is likely to be carried a stage further by the cultivation of the wide verges beside main roads.

A praiseworthy attempt of this kind has been made along the mile-long grass verge beside the Barnet by-pass, near South Mimms. Tractors have ploughed up the verge, and corn sown.

If this experiment proves successful it is expected that many similar grass verges will come under the plough.



Light Blues Launch Their Boat

The Cambridge crew are here seen preparing to lower their craft into the water before a practice row on the Cam. The Boat Race takes place on Saturday, March 27.

THE ARTS ON HOLIDAY

AN interesting experiment is being tried this year by the Holiday Fellowship and the Educational Centres Association. An "art holiday" week is to be held at Cromer in May, when an expert artist will be in residence to give criticism and advice to the visitors.

Lovers of music among the Fellowship members are invited the same month to Bourton-on-the-Water, in the Cotswolds, where a full programme of lectures on music, concerts, and recitals will be provided.

Finally, Mr Maurice Carpenter will be the "poet-in-residence" for a "holiday-with-literature" to be held at Swanage in October. Holidays with science and history may be arranged later.

This idea of combining holidays with cultural pursuits is not a new one. A century and a half ago Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy, and Coleridge, "three persons and one soul," discovered the ideal holiday in roaming together among the Quantock Hills discussing nature, poetry, and the arts the live-long day.

Church Films

THE Church of England has made its first two films. One, for young people, is called *The Coming of the Light* and tells the story of the conversion of England and Wales to Christianity. A map and diagrams show how the Faith survived in the West after the fall of Rome and how it was spread by missions in Iona, Kent, and East Anglia.

The other film, *Your Inheritance*, deals with the life of a typical English parish church. Both films take from ten to 15 minutes to show and both were financed by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge.

NOBLE COMPANY

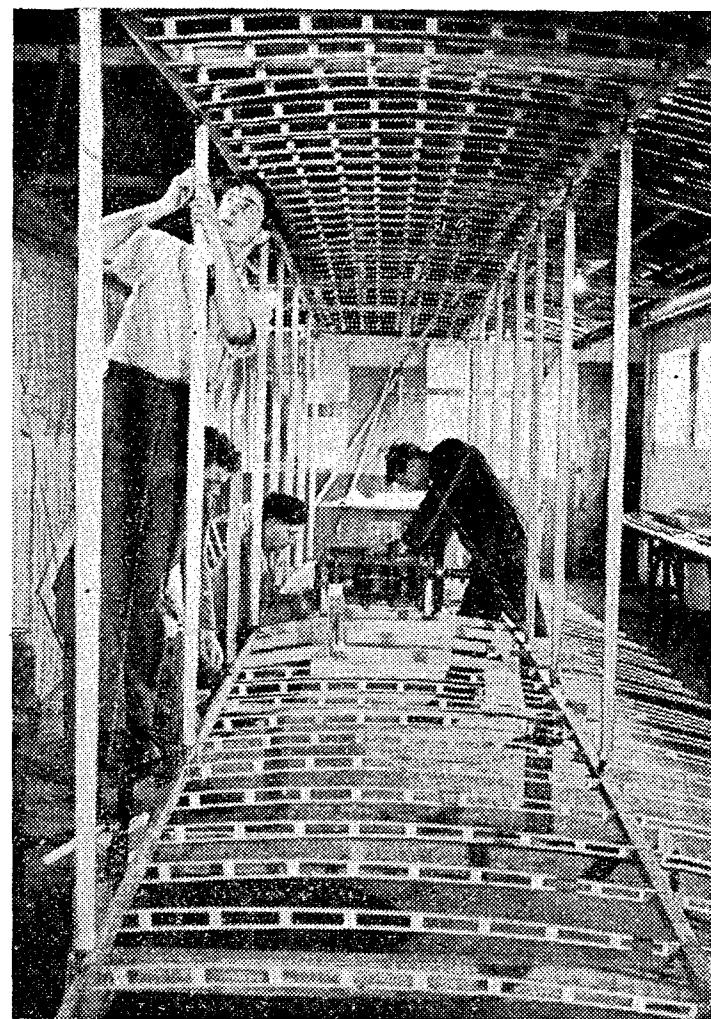
TO the many Livery Companies of the City of London a new one—the Company of Farmers—is likely to be added. The managing committee of the Red Cross Agricultural Fund, for which more than £8,500,000 was collected, decided to found a City Guild of their own and have now approached the Court of Aldermen with a view to securing a Livery of 250.

The ancient Guilds and Livery Companies of the City of London laid the foundations of our mercantile prosperity, and the older ones have carried on through the centuries, always true to their fine traditions. A Company of Farmers will be a worthy addition.

More Things Are Wrought by Prayer

SOMEONE'S prayers have been answered and Muller's Orphanage has acquired a splendid mansion—Backwell Hill House—seven miles from Bristol, where George Muller started his great adventure in faith in 1835. He would have rejoiced could he have seen the fine house where the children he loved are to live. It stands 528 feet above sea level and has beautiful views over the Bristol Channel and the surrounding country.

Muller came to England in 1828, a young German with little in his pocket but with dauntless Christian Faith in his heart. His object was to demonstrate the



Copying the First Plane

Students of the De Havilland Aircraft School are making a replica of the machine in which the Wright brothers made the first powered flight in 1903. It will be placed in the Science Museum when the original machine is returned to America.

A Carpet For a Parliament

MORE than 450 square yards of new Axminster carpet woven in English mills have recently arrived at New Zealand's Parliament House in Wellington.

As soon as possible after the World War New Zealand has bought this new deep red carpet to replace the carpet laid down when the new Parliament House was occupied in 1919.

The old carpet was worn out some years ago by the feet of the 80 members of the House of Representatives, but the buying of a new one had to be held over until Britain and the Dominions had won the war.

The new carpet is only just big enough to cover the floor of the House of Representatives, which does the same kind of work as our House of Commons.

IN MEMORY

AS "a tribute to the many gallant young men who flew over this area during the war years," different varieties of trees have been recently planted by Miss L. M. Reeve and roadmen of the Norfolk County Council, along a recently-widened main road near Watton.

The trees include 25 Norwegian spruce, a dozen horse chestnuts, four larches, four *Ailanthus glandulosa*, and one *Cupressus lawsoniana*, brought from Scotland in 1944.

Shall This Doocot Go?

A PROPOSAL to demolish the fine 300-year-old "doocot" which stands in the middle of the village of Westquarter, near Falkirk in Scotland, has aroused much opposition, for it is a typical example of the Scottish architecture of its period.

This doocot was originally built in order to increase the supply of fresh food. In the 16th century it was the custom to kill cattle and sheep late in the year, and then the meat had to be salted for use in the winter. Realising that more fresh food was necessary for the health of the people, the Scottish Parliament passed an Act in 1503 which encouraged the construction of warrens for rabbits, parks for deer, and doocots for pigeons. Some forty years later the Westquarter doocot was built; it is about twenty feet high, and has hundreds of stone nesting-boxes for the pigeons.



Welsh Singers

These girls of Ashford Welsh Girls' School are rehearsing for the choral service to be held in St Paul's Cathedral on February 26 during the Welsh National Festival. The conductor is Mr Evan Jenkins, who will conduct in St Paul's.

FRANCE REMEMBERS 1848

THIS week France commemorates the centenary of one of the most dramatic events in her long history—the Revolution of 1848. In Paris a Tree of Liberty is being planted in front of the Hôtel de Ville, the city itself being gaily decorated.

In the early spring of just 100 years ago the discontents and hardships from which the French people had been suffering came to a head, and on February 22 there was a revolt in Paris. Louis-Philippe, who had been proclaimed King of the French 18 years before and had become known as "The Citizen King" owing to his democratic views, had forfeited his popularity, and on February 24, 1848, was forced to forfeit his crown as well.

Realising his life was in danger, the scared King prepared to escape to England, the refuge of so many political exiles. The mob had taken away the royal carriages, so Louis-Philippe, with his queen and their children had to drive away in ordinary horse cabs and he assumed the simple name of Mr Smith.

After a journey filled with anxiety and danger the royal exiles arrived in England and eventually settled at Claremont in Surrey, where Louis-Philippe died two-and-a-half years later.

The day after the King's abdication, a Provisional Government was formed in Paris and a new Republic was proclaimed.

On the very day on which

Philippe left the shores of his native country another Louis, who was to become a ruler of the French people—and meet with a similar fate—landed at Boulogne. He was Louis Napoleon, a nephew of the famous Emperor Napoleon, who, after the failure of a revolt at Strasbourg in 1836, went to America and two years later came to England.

In August 1840 Louis Napoleon arrived in his own country but was captured and imprisoned in the fortress of Ham. However, he managed to escape in the clothes of an ordinary workman and succeeded in reaching England, where he bided his time until the Revolution of 1848.

Having returned to France again, Louis Napoleon was fortunate enough to be elected as deputy for Paris in the National Assembly and was later chosen as President of the Republic.

In the meantime France had been in a very unsettled state and there had been much violence. Taking advantage of the political situation Louis Napoleon, like his uncle, declared himself Emperor, taking the title of Napoleon III. He ruled ill, and disaster overtook him and his country in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

Like his royal predecessor, Louis-Philippe, Napoleon III fled to England, where he joined his wife, the Empress Eugénie, at Chislehurst in Kent. There he died in January 1873, and was buried at Farnborough.

The Floating Sieve

A WONDERFUL example of modern methods of salvaging wrecked ships was provided some time ago after the oil-tanker Diloma, laden with benzine, had run aground on rocks off Sunderland, was abandoned by her crew and left lying with gaping holes in her bottom.

In days gone by a vessel in that predicament would have been left to be broken up by the seas, but the skilled men of the Anglo-Saxon Company, the vessel's owners, put on their thinking caps.

By means of intricate and detailed calculations, Mr John Lamb worked out a plan for salvaging the vessel and part of its cargo of benzine as well. He planned to refloat the Diloma by pumping compressed air into

a space between the benzine in her tanks and the top of the tanks. For the benzine, being of a lighter density than water, was floating on top of the sea-water that had entered the vessel.

A working party in another vessel went out to the Diloma and forced the compressed air into her tanks. The Diloma was given enough buoyancy by the compressed air to enable her to rise from the rocks—although she still had holes in her bottom. She was towed to the firm sands at the mouth of the Humber, where the benzine was drawn off by suction pumps. Then more compressed air was pumped into her, which was sufficient to keep her afloat while she was towed all the way to Falmouth, for repairs in a dry dock there.

February 28, 1948

Congo Riches

BRITAIN is negotiating an important trade agreement with Belgium whereby we hope to obtain large supplies of copper ore, tin, and rough diamonds from the Belgian Congo.

The greater part of the Belgian Congo is covered by dense equatorial forests yielding great export products of palm oil and kernels and gum copal. Copal is a gum collected from the bark of certain trees, the best variety being "fossil" copal formed on trees which are now entirely decayed; the natives find it by poking about with sticks on marshy ground which was formerly covered with forests. Copal is used for making varnish, clear-gum sweets, and adhesives.

How the Pygmies Live

The most interesting inhabitants of the Congo forests are undoubtedly the pygmies, who at full growth are only about four-and-a-half feet high. They are perhaps the most primitive people in the world today; they wear no clothes, have no settled habitation, do no farming, bake no bread, and live by collecting nuts and fruit, varying their diet with grubs, roots, and any wild creatures they are able to shoot with their bows and arrows.

A curious custom of the pygmies is their method of "silent trade." During the night one of them will steal quietly up to another's hut and leave a bunch of bananas outside the door. When the occupant sees this in the morning he knows that he is obliged to replace this with a full equivalent of some other kind of food. The following night this is quietly taken away and the barter is complete. But if the first pygmy is not satisfied with the exchange the other is sure to feel the weight of his anger before the next dawn.

The white man has done much to improve conditions of life on the Congo, and Mr Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, has stated that he is sure Britain and Belgium will continue to co-operate in the development of its resources.

WHAT A CATCH!

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Leslie Frost, of Rotherham, went fishing the other day. After a while he hooked something that seemed likely to break his line; here, at last, was the record catch he had often dreamed of. When he finally landed the prize, however, it was a brand-new bicycle!

In the New India



Smiling young Indians in Secunderabad, Deccan.

The Editor's Table

COURAGE ABOVE ALL

MR WALTER ELLIOT spoke rousing words to Glasgow students in his Rectorial Address. He called on them to face "this harsh century into which we have been born" with courage linked to the virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Undismayed by the towering problems which confront mankind at this hour, the Rector challenged his young audience to have a heart to face adversity and overcome evil with good.

"Courage is the thing; all goes if courage goes," said Sir James Barrie twenty-five years ago in another memorable address to Scottish students, and since then the world has had much need of courage—of this glowing virtue which warms the heart in the chilly day of disappointment and keeps men's hopes alive when all seems lost. But it is needed now as much as it ever was—in the world's affairs and in the affairs of our own nation. We must approach our present difficulties with "high-hearted courage," for upon the will to succeed depends the outcome of the battle; the will attends the deed.

As Mr Elliot pointed out to his Scottish students, life is a constant pull between good and evil—two forces which provide the endless adventure of living. This generation has to decide on which side it is going to stand, and it still demands courage mixed with charity to stand for the good at a time when in so many places evil appears to be triumphant. True courage comes from the heart, where charity dwells; it springs from a noble spirit and high ideals, and it is never more in evidence than when the battle is going badly.

... tis true that we are in great danger;
The greater therefore should our courage be.

Those words from the field of Agincourt are a challenge to modern youth preparing now to take their places in a world where so many wrongs have yet to be righted.

COURAGE belongs to peace as well as war, to men's everyday needs, welfare, and happiness. Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war; and the hour for courage in all men everywhere is now.

THE GREAT CALM

CALM Soul of all things! make it mine
To feel, amid the city's jar,
That there abides a peace of thine
Man did not make, and cannot mar.
Matthew Arnold.

JUST AN IDEA

As George Eliot wrote, *The proper way to check slander is to despise it.*

WORLD HEALTH

A SPLENDID new international organisation devoted to improving the bodily health of mankind has just been established. It is the World Health Organisation, the constitution of which was recently agreed to by 25 countries. Its Assembly is to meet at Geneva in June.

One of the first problems they mean to tackle is that of malaria. This is a disease that is almost unknown in our own country, yet it is estimated that every year 300 million people fall ill with malaria and that every year about three million people die of it. Many millions more—including ourselves—are affected by this wastage of disease and death, for experts believe that it is one of the chief contributing causes of the present world food shortage.

Men and women of good will everywhere will pray for the success of the W.H.O.

Spare the Taw and Spoil the Bairn

SCOTTISH children have cause for rejoicing in the recent retiral of Mr James Heggie of Lochgelly, who for the last 45 years has been turning out thousands of schoolteacher's straps—or "taws," as they are familiarly known in Scotland.

Mr Heggie is proud of his straps, known in the trade as his "Lochgelly specials," and children may be interested to learn that in his time he has produced many different varieties, his chief work of art being one that boasted ten tails.

We are afraid, however, that Mr Heggie's retirement will make little difference to the supply of school straps. There is a saying: "The King is dead, long live the King"; and probably there will be another Mr Heggie to carry on the tradition of the "Lochgelly specials" and ensure that no bairns will be spoiled for lack of a "taw."

Under the E

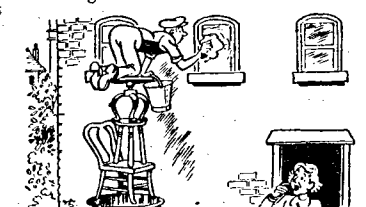
PEOPLE registered under the new Employment Order fall into three categories. Careless of them.

THE best way to get rid of ugly advertisements is to rate them heavily. Not highly.

A MAN made a violin from a soap-box. Got bars of music out of it.

TURN over vacant ground, advises a gardening expert. And put your mind into it.

A FISHERMAN thinks he gets more fish in rough weather. The fish are caught in a storm.



THE window cleaner who forgot his ladder!

Good Frau Schroeder

THE Germans are much inclined to hero-worship and it is indeed heartening to find them admiring one who is in the true Christian tradition. This is Frau Schroeder, the acting chief burgomaster of Berlin, who is called by the citizens "the mother of Berlin."

Amid all the grimness and conflicting passions of Berlin today, this good woman is esteemed by all the political parties as well as by the authorities of the four occupying powers.

Frau Schroeder has been recovering slowly from an illness because, in her determination to share the hardships of the people, she has resolutely refused any privileges in the way of food; her ration card as a citizen does not entitle her to the diet she ought to have as an invalid. During her illness she has been courageously carrying on her official business from her room.

Such love and self-sacrifice may well show that a new spirit is stirring among the Germans.

STAGGERED SCHOOLS

SOUTHAMPTON schools have become so overcrowded that by next July, unless something is done meanwhile, 1000 new boys and girls will have to be denied admission to the infants' schools. The Education Committee have drawn the attention of the Ministry of Education to this deplorable situation and, as a remedy of the situation, have agreed to a plan whereby infants' school hours will be "staggered," some of the children attending in the morning and others in the afternoon.

This is a shocking state of affairs indeed and shows how we are lagging behind in making the 1944 Education Act a living reality. Britain today is hard-pressed by many difficulties, but the preparation for life of her future citizens is surely the last undertaking which should be sacrificed.

Editor's Table.

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

"Thin people are
light sleepers"



A VETERAN says football is not so pretty to watch as it used to be. Perhaps he thinks it is pretty rough.

If a joke is clever and witty let all sides split, says a writer. A miscreant.

Music can open the door to friendship. But it must have the right key.

SOME motorists want to use Hyde Park for racing. We should not let it be turned into a car park.

The chief occupation of some girls is dress. A wearing one.

The prospective M.P. who stands up for his rights wants a seat.

THINGS SAID

WORKERS should ask themselves nightly, "Have I earned my pay?" It would help recovery.
Captain Crookshank, M.P.

I THINK our relationship with practically the whole world is better now than it has ever been.
The Foreign Minister

I BELIEVE in boys' clubs and cadet units, because in them the boys are taught discipline, loyalty, and teamwork.

*Field-Marshal
Lord Montgomery*

IF we in Europe can combine to develop the resources of Africa, they will yield not only a rich dividend to the peoples of Africa but will do much to meet hunger and the legitimately expanding hopes of the people of Europe.

*Hector McNeil,
Minister of State*

Sweet Memories

LORD MACKINTOSH of Halifax has sweeter memories than those of his toffee, and he spoke of them recently at a dinner given by his friends to celebrate his elevation to the Peerage. The first is of his mother.

"When my mother died," he told his friends, "we found a little cardboard box. In it were a photo of father when they first met, which none of us had seen; the original toffee recipe written in her own hand on the page of an exercise book; and a letter thanking her for her work as a Sunday School teacher. These were evidently her real treasures."

After his mother comes his wife. "Every page of my scrap-book of memory is lit by her presence and her smile," he said.

These are treasures that are worth more to Lord Mackintosh than all the toffee in the world; they are treasures that can make a poor man rich, while the lack of them makes a rich man poor.

MUSIC EVERYWHERE

LET me go where'er I will
I hear a sky-born music still:
It sounds from all things old,
It sounds from all things young,
From all that's fair, from all
that's foul,
Peals out a cheerful song.

It is not only in the rose,
It is not only in the bird,
Not only where the rainbow
glows,

Nor in the song of woman heard;
But in the darkest, meanest
things

There alway, alway something
sings.

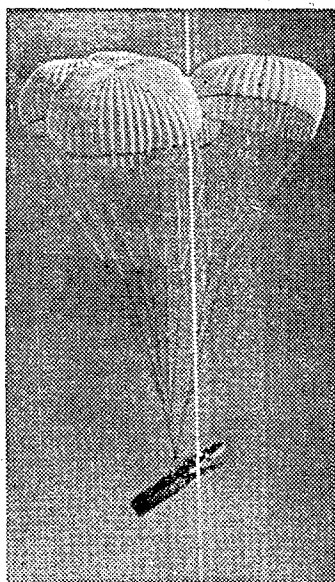
Tis not in the high stars alone,
Nor in the cups of budding
flowers,

Nor in the redbreast's mellow
tone,

Nor in the bow that smiles in
showers;

But in the mud and scum of
things

There alway, alway something
sings.
R. W. Emerson



The Paraboot

A lifeboat dropped from a plane floats down under four parachutes during a recent demonstration of sea rescue methods.

TWO COMETS TO LOOK FOR

By the C.N. Astronomer

TWO more comets are now present in our sky and, though both are faint, one could be seen easily with glasses or very good sight. This, known as Bester's Comet, 1947k, is travelling northwards, through the constellation of Aquila; it will pass to the east of Altair about March 18.

Though small, this comet should be perceptible against a clear dark sky, but, as it is receding and so gradually becoming fainter, the sooner it is sought the better. It is travelling quickly and its path during March is indicated on the accompanying star-map; but, as this region now appears in the



east about four a.m., the comet can only be seen before dawn.

The other, and much fainter, comet, Mrkos 1948a, is in the same region of the heavens but farther north, passing through Cygnus. A good telescope will be needed to see it.

The Great Southern Comet 1947n, which unfortunately disappeared owing to mist and cloud, is now travelling away far beyond the Sun and is much fainter, having divided into two distinct comets. They may return after some thousands of years with perhaps an interval of a year or two between them.

G. F. M.

QUEEN BESS AT BECCLES

THE new municipal offices of Beccles in Suffolk have acquired a plaster cast of the Royal Arms of Queen Elizabeth.

When converting one of the town's oldest buildings into offices a firm of auctioneers discovered the arms in an upstairs room.

It was Queen Elizabeth who in 1584 presented Beccles with its charter of incorporation, and there is a local tradition that she slept in the room in which the coat-of-arms has been found.

He Enriched Our Heritage of Song

NO great composer has ever understood children better than Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, who was born at Bournemouth on February 27 just 100 years ago. Throughout his long life he kept his boyish spirit of fun, and he was always ready to turn aside from a serious composition to romp with young people.

Charles Parry became a composer almost as soon as he had learned to write. Notebooks which he kept as a boy show how quickly he picked up the elements of harmony and musical technique. From the beginning he was interested in music for the Church, and by the time he was sixteen he had tried his hand at nearly every form of Church music, from organ pieces to cantatas and songs.

By this time he was at Eton, and, both as pianist and singer, he was a leading light in the Eton Musical Society. Music, however, by no means exhausted his interests. He had a natural aptitude for games which he played with a recklessness which frequently put him on the injured list. In later life his adventurous spirit led him into every kind of danger, both on land and sea, and he suffered many injuries.

After completing his education at Oxford, Charles Parry settled down seriously to the study of music. The house of his friend Edward Dannreuther was at that time the most popular centre for music in London, and there the young composer spent much of his time. It was there, too, that some of his best-known works were first heard.

Parry first began to attract the attention of the public when, in 1880, a piano concerto of his was performed at the Crystal Palace. But it was his noble setting of

Milton's ode, *At a Solemn Music*, written for his friends at Eton and Oxford with whom he used to sing, which brought him fame. Thereafter a stream of oratorios, cantatas, and symphonies came from his pen.

Today we all honour him as the man who set Blake's *Jerusalem* to music and so gave his countrymen a song which has become an inspiring force in their lives and, indeed, shares with Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory* the honour of being their second national anthem.

In addition to his work as composer, Parry also did grand work as Professor of Music at Oxford University, though his most fruitful labours were his duties as Director of the Royal College of Music. Among the many books he wrote is *Studies of the Great Composers*, which will be found on the bookshelf of many a present-day musician.

At the Royal College Parry enjoyed great popularity with every student, for he was always ready to advise, encourage, and help anyone who, like himself, was anxious to propagate the finest types of music.

Britain's musical heritage is all the richer for Sir Charles Parry's long and fruitful life, and when he died, in 1918, he was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, close to the spot where, eighteen years earlier, they had laid the mortal remains of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

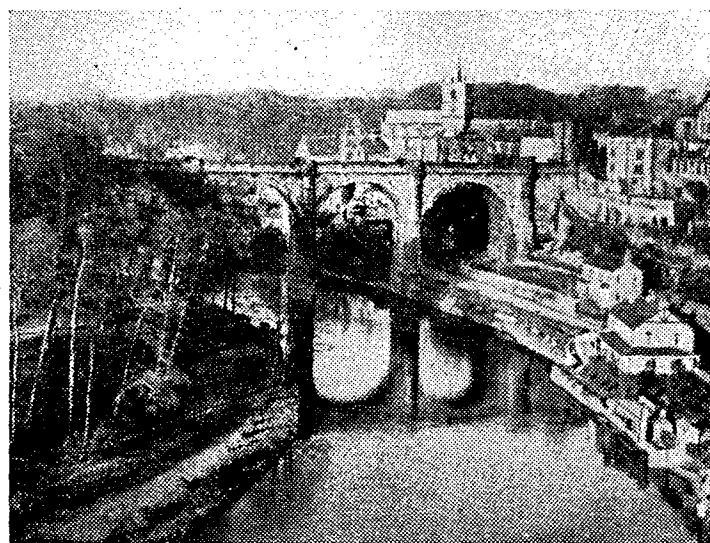
AMERICA'S RECORD-BREAKING PARSON

FOR years now athletes have been trying to solve the problem of running a mile in four minutes. Gundar Haegg, of Sweden, holds the present record of 4 minutes 1.5 seconds. But if any man is to reduce this amazing time to four minutes dead, he is Gil Dodds, the bespectacled, 29-year-old Boston parson, writes the C.N. Sportsman.

This summer Dodds will be taking leave of his church and congregation in America for a few weeks to travel to the Olympic Games, at Wembley. He has been breaking records

over the mile since his college days, and in 1943 he gained the Sullivan Award as the best athlete in the United States. Early this month, at New York, he won his thirtieth consecutive mile victory.

Unlike many other fine milers, "The Prancing Parson," as Dodds is known in his own country, sets a rapid pace from the start and maintains it throughout the whole race, causing his rivals to run themselves to a standstill. It is for this reason that he is expected to be first home in the 1500 metres at Wembley—which, he says, will be his last race.



THIS ENGLAND

The River Nidd at Knaresborough, Yorkshire, seen from the Castle Hill

Mary and Her Giant Shell

CHILDREN of the County Primary School at Wretham, a West Norfolk village, have brought to light various fossils as a result of their searches for local relics of prehistoric life.

A find by Mary Jarvis was so interesting that it has been accepted by the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge. Embedded in a great flint, the fossil, which could not at first be identified, was 15 to 18 inches long and nine inches wide.

Mary's school has received this report from the experts at Cambridge University.

"The *Inoceramus* has been incorporated in our collection. The specimen is a *Lamelli-branch*, a group which includes the cockles and clams now living. It lived about a hundred million years ago on the floor of a sea which occupied East Anglia, and on which was deposited the chalk... Probably it has been moved by the ice sheet, which once covered East Anglia, and for all one can tell, it may have come originally from Lincolnshire. It is rather a rare species, and we are glad to have it in our collection."

MORE SEA FOOD

FOR some time past the Marine Laboratory of the University of Miami, U.S.A., has been experimenting with plankton as a possible human food.

Plankton consists of millions upon millions of very minute animals and plants—too tiny to be seen by the human eye—which inhabit the seas and provide food for fishes and other marine animals. The plankton is mostly found in the shallow water of the continental shelves which border the great land masses, and it is mainly for that reason that these areas are the chief fishing grounds.

From Miami comes the news that plankton is especially rich in proteins and calories. This is certainly true, for it is known that the liver of the cod, which feeds mainly on plankton, supplies us with the vitamins A and D. Already soup has been made from plankton, and raw plankton sandwiches have been pronounced excellent, so it appears that we may soon be having an addition to our bill of fare.

Steps to Sporting Fame



Masterly batting has been displayed by Joe Hardstaff, the most experienced member of our team in the West Indies.



Joe is the son of a former Notts and England batsman—the late Joe Hardstaff who toured Australia in 1907. Born in 1911, Joe Junior first played for Notts in 1930.



His favourite hook to leg soon brought him many runs, and consistent scoring won him Test recognition. He was chosen to play against South Africa in 1935.



At one time a good foot-baller, he is speedy between the wickets, turning twos into threes. Joe has toured Australia twice and has made more than 40 centuries.

Cuckoos Without Wings

MANY people in Scarborough have been under the impression that they had heard the first cuckoo of the year—as early as January. They had heard it distinctly, calling again and again, and so could not be mistaken. But it appears that the "cuckoo" was a local roadsweeper, who, as he confesses, on seeing a crowd collected at a bus stop, went quietly into the park and cuckooed to his heart's content, completely deceiving everybody.

An exactly similar thing happened in Hertfordshire some years ago—with a naturalist as victim! The late Richard Lydekker wrote to *The Times* saying that he had heard a cuckoo calling loudly and repeatedly near his house at Harpenden. The month was February, and he thought a cuckoo voice so early must be a record—for April is the time of the coming of the cuckoos. It was hard to doubt Mr Lydekker, for he had studied live nature in three continents and had written books that were standard authorities on the subject, including a volume on British birds. Surely so renowned an authority could not err?

Nevertheless, Richard Lydekker found that he had erred, and he was brave enough to admit it. He wrote a second letter confessing that he had been completely deceived; his "cuckoo" had proved to be a bricklayer at work, warbling a roguish, cuckoo lay.

A HEROINE'S LAST THOUGHTS

ONE of the last letters of Nurse Edith Cavell is now in the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, where anyone may read it. Edith Cavell was shot by the Germans in 1915 for helping British and French soldiers to escape from German-occupied Belgium. The letter was written two days before she calmly faced the firing-squad.

It reveals her love for a little girl whom she had befriended. "Please watch over her a little," she wrote; "she is so young. I think something can be made of her." Then comes this simple last farewell: "My very kind regards to you and good-bye."

LET US NOW TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOON

TRAVELLING to the Moon, a subject for fantastic romances in years gone by, has now become a serious scientific study. It may be Mankind's next great adventure. Many students of inter-planetary travel believe that within the present century men will journey to the Moon and back, probably in rockets propelled and controlled by atomic energy. It is being said that men will be able to remain on the Moon in houses manufacturing their own air supply, and walk about on the airless surface in special suits, like a diver's.

The first writer to imagine a voyage to the Moon was an Englishman, Bishop Godwin, who when he was a student at Oxford, about 1580, wrote a story called *The Man in the Moone*, describing the adventures of an imaginary person named Domingo Gonzales, who made an involuntary trip to the Moon from the island of St Helena.

The Trained Swans

Here Domingo had tamed a number of wild swans and, harnessing 25 of them together, had trained them to carry him. But once, while he was making a flight in his 25-swan-power aircraft, an alarming thing happened; it turned out that swans of this breed were in the habit of hibernating on the Moon, and up they went with him to their

winter quarters. They deposited him gently on a lunar hilltop, where he found many strange beasts and birds.

Then Domingo encountered the people of the Moon, men twice as large as Earth-dwellers but of pleasant appearance. He dwelt among them and learned their language which consisted of tunes and strange sounds. They were highly moral and lived together in love and peace. The Emperor of the Moon gave him a small flat stone, one side of which, when hung round his neck, had the power of greatly magnifying the Earth's attractive force, while the other side, when turned, took away all the weight of his body.

Defying Gravity

Bishop Godwin's idea of a substance which could interfere with gravity, or the pull of the Earth on the Moon and that of the Moon itself—was used by H. G. Wells in his story, *The First Men in the Moon*.

In Godwin's story Domingo Gonzales eventually returned to Earth by means of his swans and his gravitation-defying stone.

The imaginative bishop's book, written in his youth, was not published until 1638, five years after his death. In 1638 another bishop, Wilkins, published a very similar story.

It is quite certain that these books influenced the next writer of a Moon-voyage story, the famous Frenchman, Cyrano de Bergerac. He called his tale (the first instalment of which appears below as a picture story) *The Comic History of the States and Empires of the Moon*. It was published about 1656.

Cyrano de Bergerac was a romantic, swashbuckling, poetic character, chiefly remembered for his huge nose. He fought many duels with those who made fun of it, and in his story he makes his imaginary Moon-men tell the visitor from Earth that a large nose is a sign of "a witty, courageous, affable, generous, open-minded man."

His Moon-voyage story inspired other writers; Swift for part of *Gulliver's Travels*, and, later, Jules Verne and H. G. Wells.

Voyaging Through Space

Cyrano's Moon-voyager constructed a flying machine in which he launched himself from a mountain crest. The machine went wrong some distance above the Earth and fell, but the Voyager found himself travelling on through space—he had come within the orbit of the Moon's attraction. His fall on the Moon was broken by a tree.

The rest of the story begins in the pictures below.

Picture Version of Cyrano de Bergerac's Queer Story of a Trip to the Moon—Part One



Our Voyager soon found himself surrounded by Moon people. They were like huge monkeys, walked on all fours, and had two languages. The nobility conversed by playing on musical instruments; the common people, by wriggling their bodies. They played and wriggled excitedly now, showing their amazement at this queer new creature. One of them eagerly carried the Voyager on his back to their city.



He noticed that all the buildings were on wheels and found, afterwards, that there were travelling towns on the Moon. When the citizens wished to go to the seaside or the forest, they hoisted big sails on their houses and sailed away together to the new site. In this city the Voyager was carried round and exhibited as a strange monster found in the forest.



The Moon-King's learned doctors decided that the Voyager was an animal and shut him up in a cage. Here, after a time, he learned the lunar music-language. He was again examined by the learned Moon-men. But he enraged them by declaring that their world was only a Moon and that the Earth was a real world. The doctors, like the nobility, wore clothes, as they did not converse by wriggling their bodies.



They declared that he was not an intelligent creature, but a sort of featherless parrot, repeating sounds without understanding them. He was put in a cage with a perch for a bed. A moon-man was appointed to whistle tunes for him to learn. Anxiously he tried to think of a way of showing them that he was a reasoning creature like themselves.

More of this strange story will appear on this page next week

The Children's Newspaper, February 28, 1948

BUDGERIGARS AT REGENT'S PARK

By the C N Zoo Correspondent

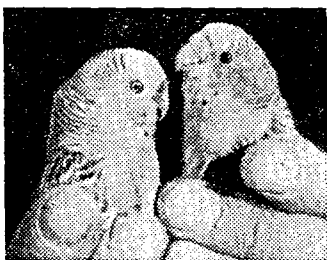
THE Zoo is planning to re-establish a popular pre-war feature—a large flight aviary for those jolly little birds, budgerigars.

Before the war the budgerigars' aviary was, for bird-lovers, one of the most attractive sights in the Gardens. And no wonder! For upwards of 200 of these lovely little Australian grass-parakeets were kept in it. All varieties were represented, and many bred there.

Unfortunately, during the war years the Zoo had to do away with this feature because it became impossible to get enough food for the birds, which are very hearty eaters. But now that bird-food supplies are easier the budgerigar colony will soon again be a flourishing one. And how attractive such a colony is! The "budgies" are seen at their best when in flight, for every colour of the rainbow seems to be there.

These birds have always done extremely well at Regent's Park and are so keen to bring up families that new nest-boxes, when put up in April, are quickly occupied, and, in pre-war days, it was quite usual for as many as 200 chicks to be hatched during the summer.

One result of the re-institution of this aviary is that the Zoo will



Taking a rest at the Zoo

once again be able to sell budgerigars to the public. The demand for these birds as pets is as keen as ever. Since the war the Zoo has had few of these birds to dispose of, but after next summer the trade should once again be brisk.

Originally, budgerigars were of only two colours—yellow and green. But by crossing and re-crossing these varieties, and selecting the progeny, it was found possible to produce birds of different colouring, the most extreme hues being dark-blue and white. Today, as a result of this "selective breeding," there are no fewer than 34 shades.

Queer things sometimes happen during these breeding experiments, by the way, and occasionally there is hatched at the Zoo what is known as a "half-sider"—that is, one lateral half of the bird is one colour, and the other side is of another.

As a "home" pet, the budgerigar has many attractions. In addition to its beauty and the ease with which it will breed in captivity, many specimens become delightfully tame and actually learn to utter scraps of human speech. This applies more particularly to the males, which can be readily distinguished from the females by the blue skin which covers the base of the beak; in females, this is brown.

To make a good "talker," however, a budgerigar should be trained while quite young—it is almost impossible to teach mature birds.

C. H.

Taking Cover in Old Samoa

THE beautiful Pacific islands of Samoa, loved by so many writers and artists, have had a stormy history of war and invasion. Legends of that stormy past have been unearthed recently in a fresh investigation of tunnels through the lava rock where islanders took refuge seven hundred years ago.

At Falemanga in Western Samoa the twin tunnels hewn in the lava rock are the memorials to the courage of the Samoan people in resisting the invasion of the Tonga kings in the 13th century. Rather than desert their island home the people cut tunnels in the hard rock, and lived a precarious life there while resisting the invader.

Here, far below the earth's surface, elaborate systems of rock platforms, ranging from two to three feet in height, were constructed by the Samoans about 700 years ago. More than 150 platforms have been counted in one of the tunnels, and 129 in the other. Fireplaces and kitchen-middens are to be seen in great numbers. Bones and the teeth of pigs, as well as a vast quantity of sea-shells have been uncovered from the ash-deposits. Coconut husks and shells also were found, along with a number of stone adzes and a rubbing-stone.

The tunnels were first discovered (according to the Pacific Islands Monthly) thirty years ago through a collapse in the earth's surface. The amount of work done in the construction of the platforms is amazing, even though some of them were roughly built. Those near the large chamber in the first tunnel are the best in construction, and it seems likely that they were reserved for the chiefs and their families. Living conditions, whatever the rank, must have been difficult. Lighting and firing were constant problems, and food had to be transported over many miles. The nearest lagoon from which shellfish could have been obtained is five miles distant.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHOICE

AMERICANS are this week remembering a former President, John Quincy Adams, who passed away just 100 years ago.

Himself the son of an American President, John Quincy Adams was born in 1767 at North Braintree (now named Quincy) in Massachusetts. He was a great-great-grandson of Henry Adams who, with his eight sons, went from Barton St David, Somerset, to New England.

When only eleven years old, he accompanied his father on a diplomatic mission to Paris, and at fourteen he was appointed secretary to Francis Dana, the US envoy to the Russian Court.

Shortly afterwards, while still in his teens, John acted as secretary to the commission which made peace with Britain at the end of the American War of Independence. Seldom can one so young have taken so active a part in scenes of equal historical importance!

While his father stayed on in Britain as the new American Ambassador, John returned home to enter Harvard, where he graduated in 1787.

He was called to the Bar, but after four years was once more in the diplomatic service. It was George Washington himself who gave him the appointment, first to Holland, then to Britain, Portugal, and Prussia.

Water, however, was conveniently obtained from a mountain stream near by.

The second tunnel, which extends 170 yards towards the south, also contains a system of platforms and other evidences of human occupation.

As the modern explorer moves down these long, silent passages his mind in imagination conjures up what life was like in this underground home of grim resistance. In the smoky haze may have been seen the weird glow emitted by the embers where the oven rocks were being kept hot for those who would soon return from their night expeditions in search of food. From the gloom beyond could be heard the hollow murmur of voices and the plaintive cry of children.

Presently, as dawn rose above the earth, the food-hunters would return. One by one they would go down into the chambers of eternal night, each bearing baskets of precious food, each wending his way to his own platform where his beloved ones awaited him through the long hours of his absence. Soon the aroma of baked food would pervade the tunnels, and the place would become animated with conversation and laughter.

It is said that the Samoans eventually rid themselves of their invaders by mixing among them in great numbers at a feast to which the conquerors had invited them, and by sheer weight of numbers drove them off into the sea. The lava tunnels of Falemanga remind the islanders today of a brave resistance movement which preserved Samoa's freedom.

Returning to the States he was elected Senator for Massachusetts, but lost his seat in 1806 because he boldly denounced the British claim to search neutral vessels for contraband of war.

A short war between Britain and the US followed, and, after helping to negotiate the peace, Adams remained in Britain as Ambassador.

He was called home in 1817 to become Secretary of State under President Monroe, and it is claimed that he was the real author of the famous Monroe Doctrine—the policy of protecting the newly-formed South American Republics from European interference.

His own term as President, which began in 1825, proved uneventful, but as a member of Congress in his declining years he was always ready to risk unpopularity by defending the cause of the Negro slaves. Indeed, it is said of him that he "... subjected himself to severe reproaches by constantly flooding the House with hundreds of petitions for the abolition of slavery."

Taken ill in Congress itself, Adams died on February 23, 1848, in the room of the Speaker of the House of Representatives—surely a fitting place for the death of one whose name figures so nobly on the American roll of honour.

DO YOU KNOW? asks Mr. Therm No. 3

Why coal should be cooked, not burned!

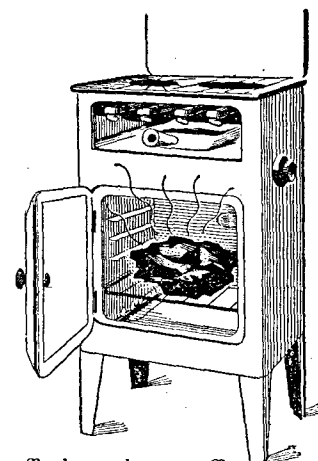
Most people think of a lump of coal as something to be put on the fire to keep it going—as a fuel, in short. But lots of other things would keep a fire going, perhaps not as well as coal, but not too badly. Coffee beans, for instance. Or rubber. Or even lumps of toffee! Perhaps you can think of better things to do with toffee than put it on the fire? In exactly the same way, there are better things to do with a lump of coal!

Coal is not only a fuel

It is also a raw material—a substance from which lots of other things can be made. Things like motor-spirit, aspirin, plastics, fertilizers, saccharin, varnish, lamp-black, pencil-leads, paint and moth-balls. All those things are made from coal, or rather from the ammonia and the coal-tar which you get by baking coal in a retort, as is done in the gasworks. But if you burn coal in an open grate, all these things literally go

up the chimney in smoke and are lost for ever.

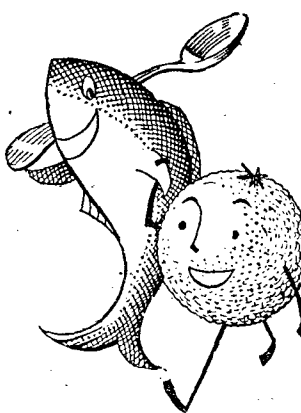
This country can't afford to go on burning fine raw materials like coal, any more than we can



afford to burn coffee or rubber. So the more people who use gas and coke, the less waste there'll be; and if Britain is to be prosperous, we dare not waste coal.

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THE BRAN TUB

NO NEED TO WORK

THE book salesman knew his job. "This ready reckoner, sir," he said, "will do half your work for you."

"Good!" was the reply. "I'll take two."

What Your Name Means

Amelia ... flattering
Amos ... a burden
Amy ... beloved
Andrew ... a man
Angelina ... angel or messenger
Angus ... excellent virtue

E-FULL

LAST week we gave a poem which did not include the letter E. Here is the first sentence of the 500-word Legend of Eve, written in 1824 by Lord Holland, which excludes all the vowels but E.

Men were never perfect; yet the three brethren Veres were ever esteemed, respected, revered, even when the rest, whether the select few, whether the mere herd, were left neglected.

What is the Word?

I BOAST, like roistering buccaneers.
Put my four letters in reverse,
And you will have what people wear,
Be they a soldier, smith, or nurse.

Answer next week

ROLY THE GOALIE

THERE was once an unusual goalie,
Whom everyone called Roly-Poly,
When he handled the ball,
On his tummy he'd fall,
And over and over would roll he.

BEDTIME CORNER

WORTH WAITING FOR

It was a joke between Ronald and Mummie that Ronald called himself a "Quarter" boy as he was really only a quarter of the age he should be. You see, Ronald was born on February 29 so he only had a real birthday once every four years.

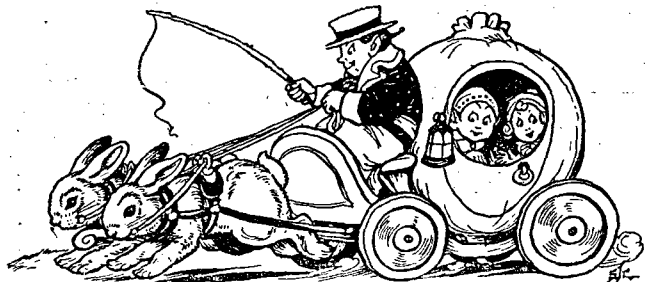
This year, being a Leap Year, he had a big party and invited all his friends. They played lots of games and had great fun. Then at tea-time Ronald saw that everyone had a large helping of birthday cake, but he received only a very small portion.

"As you are a 'Quarter' boy," laughed Mummie, "you will not be able to eat as much as the others can eat."

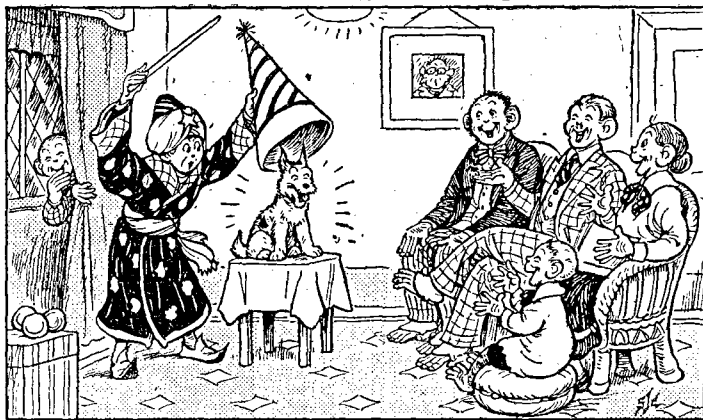
They all laughed at this, and Ronald said that perhaps he had better be a 'whole' boy at meal times.

They had a grand party.

A RIDE IN THE DREAMLAND STAGE-COACH



Jacko's Disappearing Trick



HAVING seen the conjuror at the Monkeyville Theatre, and being much impressed, Jacko resolved to give his own "Display of Magic," as he called it. His audience took their places and the show began. His piece de résistance was the "Amazing Disappearing Rabbit." Midst a deathly silence, Jacko delivered his mumbo-jumbo, waved his wand, and "Hey Presto!"—there beneath the cone—was—Bouncer! But as Jacko airily explained, the trick was much harder to do with a dog!

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

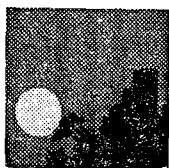
A Fierce Little Owl. The owl displayed no fear, and returned Don's stare from unwinking yellow eyes. Its plumage was greyish-brown, spotted and barred with white. A sudden shuffling movement and then with a single "Ki-wak" the bird floated rather than flew to a nearby oak.

"It wasn't much bigger than a thrush; it must have been a young owl," Don told Farmer Gray.

"It was probably a Little Owl," replied the farmer. "They are only about nine inches long, with a wing span of one foot. Although small, they are very fierce and will kill birds almost as big as themselves."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Venus is in the south-west and Mars and Saturn are in the south. Uranus is in the south-west. In the morning Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25.



LILAC TIME

SPRAYS of lilac may be induced to flower quite six weeks ahead of the normal time in this way. Cut some small branches on which there are plenty of big green buds, trim away some of the bark at the lower ends of the stems and arrange them in a jar of water.

About twice a day take out the boughs and immerse the buds in lukewarm water for ten minutes. This has the effect of making the buds expand so that the flowers are soon in their full glory.

Maxim to Memorise

ONE touch of the whip to a good horse; one word to a wise man.

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, February 25, to Tuesday, March 2

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Children's Concert.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Crocodile Men (Part 5). 5.35 Boyd Neel. North, 5.0 The Secret Fortress (Part 4). Welsh, 5.30 Junior Radio Record.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Biffer Again (Part 5). 5.15 Ballet Shoes (Part 6). Scottish, 5.0 Derek in France.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Scarecrows at Scatterbrook. N. Ireland, 5.0 From Different Angles; Making a Fire from Mud; St. Nicholas' Junior Girls' Club Choir; A Competition. North, 5.0 Geography Quiz; Musical Interlude; Books Worth Reading.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Calendar:

MONDAY, 5.0 The Fifth Form at St. Dominic's (Part 1). 5.30 Hadley Junior Choir. Scottish, 5.30 Songs; The Zoo Man. West, 5.30 Choir of Stover School, Newton Abbot.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Black Beauty (6). 5.15 Young Artists. 5.40 Drawing Hints. N. Ireland, 5.0 Adventures Unexpected (Part 5); A Story. Scottish, 5.15 Donald and the Gang; Violin: Brown Cows—a talk. West, 5.15 Young Artists. 5.40 Sports Talk.

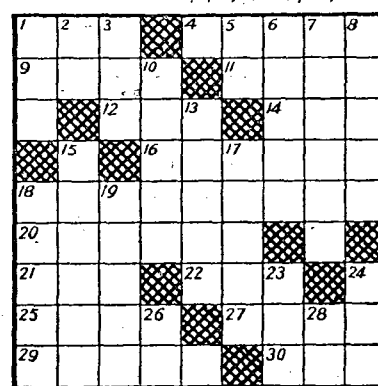
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across: 1 Heavy mist. 4 Confined to a definite district. 9 Parched with heat. 11 Healthy. 12 Light sleep. 14 Container. 16 Medieval garment, now worn by Officers of Arms. 18 Possessing loveliness. 20 That which crams or drives. 21 A monkey. 22 Cereal plant. 25 A flue. 27 Ancient stringed instrument. 29 Established succession. 30 Organ of hearing.

Reading Down: 1 Disturber of the air. 2 Heraldic term for gold. 3 A trap. 5 Exclamation. 6 The chocolate tree. 7 Signal indicating danger. 8 Grants for temporary use. 10 Some known fact from which others can be deduced. 13 Father. 15 Machine for cutting grain. 17 A less green variety of emerald. 18 Well done! 19 To change for the better. 23 Organ of vision. 24 Preposition denoting through. 26 Note in Tonic Solfa scale. 28 Royal Academician (Abbrev.).

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, February 28, 1948



Catch Question

If a boy has 16 patches on his shoe, what time is it?

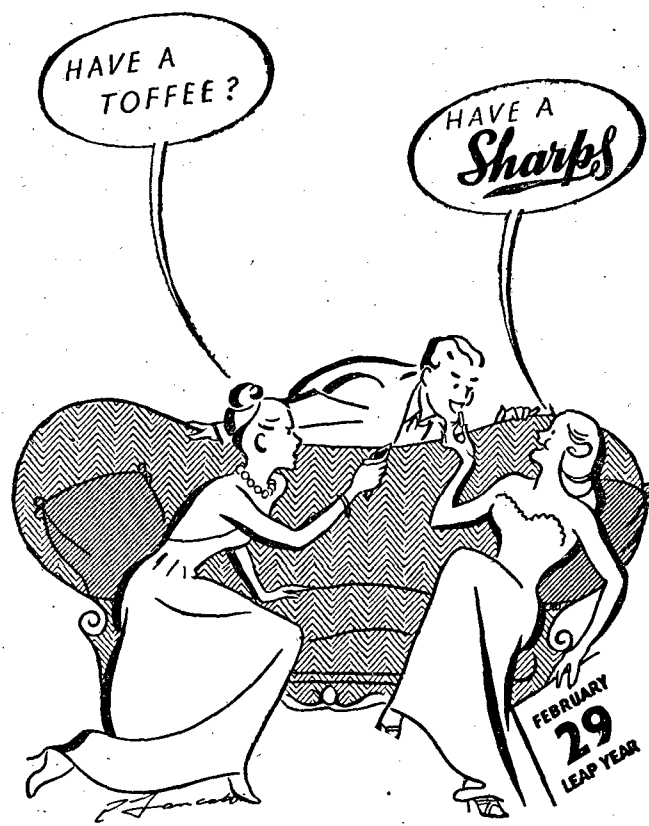
Time to have the shoe mended

Tongue Twister

ELIZABETH illegally elicits elaborate elastic.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

What am I? Pen (Penn, Penny)



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